

Is the Emergency Shelter Closing? When?

The YWCA Emergency Shelter will be closing June, 2015. In 2012, State of Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller and the Crime Victims Assistance Division (CVAD) determined the state should regionalize DV/SA services. As of July 2014, SafePath Survivor Resources, of Family Resources, is our region's provider of domestic violence, sexual assault, and shelter-based services. They are the provider for our area.

Why didn't the YWCA apply to be the regional provider?

Due to the YWCA's geographic location and available resources, we could not compete with providers in Iowa City and Davenport. The YWCA Emergency Shelter remains open through June 2015, thanks to generous donors and a lot of hard work by many. Our emergency shelter is fully funded by local donations through June 2015.

What will the YWCA do now?

We will continue to serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness, stalking, and harassment through our **Rapid Re-Housing** and scattered-site **Transitional Housing** programs. The current trend in funding is to no longer fund brick-and-mortar shelters, but to place people in homes of their own. We are adapting to these trends in order to best serve those in need in our community, help even more people and create a sustainable future for our program.

The positives...

- We will be able to maximize the services we provide using funding sources that are available.
- Within our scattered-site housing programs, we will be able to expand our services to include now servicing individuals and entire families affected by homelessness in addition to those experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and/or harassment.

The YWCA continues to change and adapt...

As we have for the past 99 years, we will continue to change to meet the needs of our community. We will continue to help those in need in creating better lives for themselves. We will continue to serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness, stalking, and harassment

What is Rapid Re-Housing?

Rapid Rehousing assists individuals and/or families who are homeless and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and harassment gain safe, affordable, permanent housing. This program assists with deposit, rent, utility deposits, utility arrears, and moving costs.

What is Transitional Housing?

A 2-year program for individuals or families experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness, stalking or harassment, giving them a period of safety and stabilization so they can re-educate themselves, job search and prepare to move towards independence.

Who will help in emergencies?

SafePath Survivor Resources, of Family Resources, was selected by the state and awarded our regional contract. They have been and continue to be this region's provider of domestic violence, sexual assault, and shelter-based services. Persons seeking SafePath's services may contact them at 866-921-3354.

What is the cost to operate Emergency Shelter and shelter-based TH Programs?

The minimum cost to provide 24-hour staffing and services for these two shelter-based programs is \$354,000 annually. The State of Iowa's decision to regionalize services meant a cut of \$250,000 in government funding for the YWCA-Clinton, creating a huge shortfall of funding for us.

Can't local donations sustain the Shelter?

In our best year, we raised \$124,000 in additional donations from individuals, civic groups and churches in our community. Approximately 68% of that amount raised was from just two donors, who have indicated they will not be able to give at that level in the future. Based on this experience, we now know that local donations alone cannot sustain our shelter-based services.

All media questions should be forwarded strictly to:

YWCA Crisis Services Director Ronelle Clark (563)242-2110 x.400 or YWCA Executive Director Shannon Sander-Welzien at (563)242-2110 x.101. **YWCA Staff and Board are not authorized to answer any questions from the media.** Press releases will be forwarded to the media on November 12, 2014.

Timeline: Looking Forward...

November 2014—Meetings with Staff, Clients, Special Friends and Community Partners to inform them of change in services.

November 12, 2014—Press release sent to media.

December 2014—We will no longer accept *new* residents into our shelter-based Transitional Housing (TH) Program. Beginning in December, we will assist *new* clients through our other programs instead. We will continue to serve *existing* shelter-based TH clients through June 2015, and will ensure they are relocated appropriately after that point.

June 15, 2015—We will no longer accept new people into the Emergency Shelter.

What You Can Do to Help

- Help deliver the message of the changes positively in our community. The YWCA will continue to be a beacon of hope for our community, as we have for the past 99 years.
- Contacting your local legislators is one of the most effective ways to bring about positive change. Go to www.whoismyrepresentative.com to find your local legislators.
- **Contact those who make the decisions on the funding for these programs:**

Iowa Attorney General

[Crime Victim Assistance Division](#)

321 E. 12th, Lucas Building, Ground Floor
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Phone: 515-281-5044 / 1-800-373-5044
Fax: 515-281-8199

- Contact your local legislators and encourage them to vote to increase or lift the cap on Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds for victim use. Learn more about the VOCA fund cap at www.navaa.org.
- Continue to work locally to advocate for victims and bring awareness to the need for additional funding and resources, supporting the YWCA and others in our efforts.

For more ways you can help, please contact Crisis Services Director Ronelle Clark at (563) 242-2118 x.400.

Donations are still very much needed and appreciated

Your support and donations will continue to allow us to help more community members **grow, thrive and reinvest in our community**. *Some examples of how your donations help:*

- Providing case management services to create a path towards safety and self-sufficiency.
- Providing childcare to assist clients in finding gainful employment and/or pursuing an education.
- Providing household furnishing to make a new house, a “home”.
- Provide gas cards for transportation to job interviews, medical appointments, schooling, and other social agencies, all of which will help clients get back on their feet again, healthy, and well.
- Provide grocery cards to feed families and stock the cupboards in their new home, giving them a great fresh start.

Your donations make a direct impact in the lives of the women, men, and children in need in our community. To make a donation, or for more giving opportunities, please contact Financial Development Director Sarah Hood (563) 242-2110 x.103

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